By the King.

A PROCLAMATION

To Reſtrain the Exceſsive Carriages in Wagons and four-Wheeled Carts, to the deſtruction of High-ways.

Whereas it appertaineth to Us to have ſpecial Care, that the common High-Ways, and Bridges, leading from place to place within this Realm, might be kept in due repair for the eaſe and good of Our Loving Subjects; And obſerving not withſtanding the good proviſion of Our Laws in that behalf made, and the conformity and formardneſs of Our Subjects unto publique and neceſſary a Work, That Our High-Ways and Bridges are at this preſent grown into great decay, and very dangerous for Paſſage, We have upon due examination found, that the ſaid Decays are occaſioned by the common Carriers of this Realm, Who for their ſingular and private profit, do now uſually Travail with Carts and Wagons with four Wheels, drawn with eight, nine, or ten Horſes or more, and do commonly therein carry ſixty and ſeventy hundred Weight at one burthen at one time, which burden and weight is ſo great and exceſsive, as that the very Foundations of Bridges are in many places thereby ſhaken, and the High-Ways and Cawleys furrowed and ploughed up by the Wheels of the ſaid Carts and Wagons ſo overladen, and made ſo deep, and full of dangerous Slows and Holes, as neither can Paſſengers Travail thereby in Safety, nor the Inhabitants or Perſons by Law bound to repair them, be able to undergo ſo great a charge: Where heretofore all common Carriers uſually went with Carts of two Wheels onely, wherewith they could not well carry above twenty hundred weight at once, or there abouts, which the Bridges, Cawleys, and ordinary High-ways, did and might well bear without any great damage to the ſame: We therefore intending the Reformation of the Premiſſes, and it having been reſolved by the Advice of the Judges formerly taken herein, That by the Law of this Our Realm, the ſaid exceſsive and extraor-

Given at Our Court at Whitehall, etc. Sixteen
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dinary kind of Carriages, whereby Our High-Ways are thus destroyed, are common Nusances and Annoyances against the Weal-publique, and an offence against Our Crown; Do hereby streightly charge, require and command, that no common Carrier, or other person or persons whatsoever, shall hereafter use, go, or travail with any Cart or Wagon made with four Wheels, to be drawn with above five Horses at once along their Journey, unless they go all two abrest, in which case they are limited to no number, that the High-Ways and Bridges may hereafter receive the less damage thereby, upon pain of incurring Our high Displeasure, and to receive condign punishment, as contemners of Our Royal Will and Commandment, and to be further prosecuted and punished for the said Nusances and Annoyances, by Fine and such other ways, as the Laws of this Our Realm have provided against Offenders in that kind: To which end, We do hereby expressly charge, as well Our Judges, as Our Atturney-General, to exact and require the extremity of Our Laws in that behalf; And that every Offender contrary to this Our Proclamation shall for his contempt be prosecuted in Our Court of Kings Bench, and other Courts whereunto the Cognisance thereof shall belong, by Information or Indictment, and thereupon be Fined and proceeded against according to their demerit; Nevertheless, Our Intent, Will, and Commandment is, And We do hereby streightly charge, command, and prohibite, that no common Carrier whatsoever shall by colour hereof take occasion to Inhance or raise the prices of Carriage from any part or place within Our said Realm, under pain of Our Displeasure, and upon complaint thereof to Us, or Our Privy Council made, to be further punished, as shall be thought fit and just according to Law. And lastly, We do hereby Will and Require all Majors, Sheriffs, Justices of Peace, and other Our Officers and Ministers in all Counties and Priviledged Places whatsoever within this Our Realm, that they, and every of them in their several Offices and Places, do from time to time provide and see to the due execution of this Our Pleasure and Royal Commandment; and that they discover and make known all offenders herein, that they may be severely punished for their contempts, as also that they neglect not, but continue the repaire and maintenance of High-ways, Bridges and Causeys within this Our Realm, according to the Laws, Statutes and Ordinances now in force, as they tender Our Pleasure, and will answer the contrary at their utmost perils.

Given at Our Court at *Whitehall*, the Sixteenth day of *August*, 1661. in the Thirteenth year of Our Raign.

God save the KING.

LONDON,
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